OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

The second meeting of the Architectural Society for this term took place on the 27th ult.; the Rev. the President of Trinity College in the chair. Fourteen new members were admitted, and seventeen candidates proposed.

The Rev. J. L. Petit read a paper "On the Principles of Gothic Architecture as applied to ordinary Parish Churches." Mr. Petit contrasted the heavy richness of the classic style of architecture, giving evidence of its durability from its great size, while our medieval architects designed means for diminishing the weight, and at the same time adding to the beauty and strength of the building. The classical arch was marked by the keystone, which gave weight; the Gothic arch by the point, which certainly gave lightness; the horizontal line, so necessary for effect, was marked in the classic style by the heavy cornice; in the Gothic by the light string-course. Classic towers appeared durable from their massiveness; Gothic, a firm basis, growing up into light pinnacles, surmounted by a spire, as the beautiful one of St. Mary's, Oxford, gave an idea not only of durability, but of great beauty. He preferred Gothic for its catholicity, by that he meant its suitability to all climes, ages, and materials. In regard to the latter, he spoke of classical architecture as requiring necessarily large blocks of stone, not always attainable, while the beauty of Gothic often consisted in the small pieces with which it was worked. After alluding to the uncertainty of a rule for the size of chancels, instancing various proportions (from no external appearance of any, to the one at Shotesbrook, where it was larger than the nave), Mr. Petit concluded by asserting that our old parish churches would never be found models of larger churches or cathedrals in miniature.

BUILDING OPERATIONS IN GLASGOW.

The *Glasgow Herald* says:—So near as can be ascertained, it appears that in the city and its suburbs, there have been built during the past year, 1845, or are still in progress of erection, 155 dwelling-house tenements. In Scottish towns, as is well understood, the "self-contained" domicile is little known, at least when compared with its very extensive adoption in England; for here, a tenement means an erection which will accommodate from one to sixteen separate families, or tenants—the latter of course finding access to their respective lodgings by means of common stairs. We take it that, on the average, each tenement provides accommodation for nine tenants, or that the 155 houses accommodate 1,395 families in the whole; and averaging the number of inmates in each family at six individuals, we have accommodation provided, or in the course of being provided, for 8,370 individuals. The cost of erection of each tenement varies, of course, according to the situation, the style of architecture and finishing, and the class of tenants for whom it is intended. But we are instructed, varying as the cost does from 1,000*l.* up to 2,500*l.*, that the average cost for the erection of each tenement, exclusive of the price of the site, will not be less than 1,570*l.* This will give a total of 243,350*l.* The above estimate, however, does not include anything for the erection of churches, counting-houses, manufactories, stores, public works, or for business purposes generally. It refers to dwelling-houses alone. But for the accommodation of commerce and manufactures, there is good reason to assume that during the period which we have already instanced, the sum expended amounts to from 120,000*l.* or 150,000*l.* Indeed, one block of building for business purposes is at present in course of erection, in the centre of the city, which will not cost less than 20,000*l.* Then we have to add to these the price of the ground, which forms a most important part of the aggregate charge, and cannot be set down at less than 100,000*l.*, although it is generally converted into a feu duty, or ground annual, at about 5 per cent. Thus, at any rate, in one branch of industry or production, we have in Glasgow and its suburbs, a sum operated upon, during a period short of 18 months, of no less than 450,000*l.*

Hanwell Lunatic Asylum.—A new building for the reception of pauper lunatics is to be erected at Hanwell.

Correspondence.

ERRONEOUS ESTIMATES.

Sir,—I shall feel greatly obliged by the insertion of the following:—

Tenders delivered to the trustees of Hinde street chapel for sundry works in the school room; Messrs. Corderoy, surveyors.

Monson	£149
Hanson	120
Brown	117
Norton and Son	93

Shewing a difference of 56*l.* between highest and lowest in this trifling amount. Employers ought to look into the matter when such preposterous difference occurs.

I am, Sir, &c. A Regular Subscriber.

THE CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF NOTTINGHAM.

Sir,—On Monday, March 2nd, a public meeting of the operative carpenters and joiners was held at the News House, St. James's-street, Nottingham, when the large room was crowded to excess. The chair having been taken, several resolutions were advanced, and unanimously agreed to, shewing the necessity of being united together as a trade to obtain protection in cases of emergency. The question why we, the operative carpenters and joiners of Nottingham, are not worthy of the same remuneration for our labours as the operatives of other districts will be brought forward at no very distant period. It is equally advantageous to the masters to keep the trade respectable, as to the men, so that an operative may live honestly and justly by the fruits of his labour. Also that a proper understanding be maintained between the masters and men, as it respects the rules of the trade. The meeting was so well conducted, and the feelings of every man appeared so to harmonize, as to give reasons to believe that a unity of spirit is now existing amongst us, which we trust will benefit the trade in general.

An Operative.

Miscellanea.

Proposed Masonic Hall in Liverpool.—The want of a suitable place of meeting for the freemasons in Liverpool having been felt, proposals have been issued for erecting a building to supply the want. The sum required for the edifice, and for the purchase of land is 13,000*l.*, which is to be raised by 500 shares of 26*l.* each. The prospectus says, "To aid in the architectural decoration of the town, which has recently occupied much of the attention of the local government and private enterprise, and to multiply the beautiful edifices which have recently sprung up in Liverpool, must be the fervent desire of all freemasons, as with them the art of raising superstructures, perfect in all their parts and honourable to the builder, originated; an elegant building cannot be viewed even by the most ignorant without leading to admiration and reflection, which are sure to be productive of good results in softening the mind and purifying the soul."

Public Works in Ireland.—An interesting return in reference to the several measures now before Parliament for the improvement of Ireland has been issued in the shape of a statement (obtained on the motion of Mr. Hamilton, the member for the University of Dublin) of the loans and grants to each county in Ireland by the Commissioners of Public Works. The total amount of loans sanctioned was 1,051,525*l.* 8s. 9d. The total issues were 967,755*l.* 15s.; the total sum paid as interest, 178,238*l.* 15s.; the total re-payments on account of principal, 557,521*l.* 1s.; and the total balances of principal remaining due in December last amounted to 411,397*l.* 15s. The purposes for which the loans were made are set forth; they were for turnpike-roads, railways, harbours, canals, bridges, mines, wide street commissioners, ecclesiastical commissioners, drainage commissioners, Roman Catholic chapels, and to private individuals.

Sculpture in Zinc.—The pediment of the new opera-house in Berlin is ornamented with figures representing Opera and Dance, in cast zinc.

Norwich Cathedral.—Mr. J. Adey Repton, in a letter to Mr. Roach Smith, published in the journal of the Archæological Association, makes the following observation on Norwich cathedral:—It is more than fifty years since I made many drawings in Norwich, and having been lately through the cathedral, I found great improvements which do much credit to the dean and chapter, particularly in restoring the old dark oak in the stalls in the choir, by taking away the white paint. The beautiful bronze pelican has been taken out of the lumber-room, and restored to the choir as a reading-desk, but the nest is missing. The beautiful oak door which had been taken away from the rood-loft is again restored to its place. Lofty stone spires have lately been added to the towers at the west end of the nave, and great alterations have also been made in the south transept and in the cloisters, where a few new heads were added to the figures in the bosses—particularly to Saint Denis, who holds his head in his hands; he has now another head placed between his shoulders, which verifies the old proverb, that "Two heads are better than one!" I find that all the iron bars which used to be placed over the columns are entirely gone; I well remembered those bars, that they had grooves to receive the glass, while the lower parts, between the columns, are always opened to the weather. Perhaps it is not generally known, that the earth on the north-side of the nave is at least five feet above the pavement within, which is evidently the case, as one of the bases of the columns was discovered, which proves that the original surface was much lower when the cathedral was erected; and in consequence of this accumulation of the soil, the beautiful Norman arcade appears much injured from dampness.

Little Maplestead Church.—The same gentleman says:—During a professional visit to Hedingham Castle, I went to see the curious church of Little Maplestead, and was much surprised to find it in such a disgraceful state. It is completely choaked up by the lofty pews (perhaps to protect the congregation from having the ear-ache), which very much disfigure the beautiful church; the door-post of one of the pews is placed against the middle of the font. At the west end is an old timber porch of the time of Henry VII or VIII, which is much injured by being converted into a school-room, and disfigured by a modern chimney. Surely it would be very desirable to restore this porch to its original state, and to build a new school (which, I believe, is only eighteen feet by twelve), somewhere else. It would not be attended with much expense, and could easily be done by a voluntary subscription from those who may be anxious to preserve this curious building. The grass, on the outside, round the church, should be cleared away from the building. The church of Great Maplestead may be worthy of the notice of the antiquary; it is probably a Saxon building, as the masonry of the north door is composed of long and short stones placed alternately.

Lukium, or Turkish Plaster.—The impervious and adhesive qualities of this composition, which is remarkably simple and durable, are so efficacious, that although some Tukaim (tanks) are entirely beneath the earth, and thus perpetually exposed to outward infiltrations as well as inward pressure, and undoubtedly coeval with the earliest Byzantine monarchs, yet there is no record of their requiring repair, or of their having ever leaked. Water pipes of burned clay or metal joined and coated with lukium, which, when dry, becomes as hard as stone, resist the effects of humidity for ages. The following is the receipt, as now used by the Lou Yolgee (Waterway-men):—Take 100 lbs. of fresh kilned lime, finest quality, reduced to powder; ten quarts of pure linseed oil; and one or two ounces of cotton. Manipulate the lime, gradually mixing the oil and cotton in a wooden trough, until the mixture assumes the consistence of loaf-dough. Let it dry, and then break it into cakes for store or use. When required for the latter, take a sufficient quantity, moisten it with linseed oil, and with this paste give two or more coatings to the wall or pipes, allowing each coat to dry. Pipes of metal or clay can be hermetically joined by twisting well-carded hemp saturated with lukium, round the interstices, and making it fast with cord also dipped in the mixture.—"*Three Years in Constantinople*," *by C. White.*

For more information on OCR and PDF conversion go to our website